



NCTC NEWSLETTER

National Counter Terrorism Centre , Maldives

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A FORTNIGHT OF THREE NATIONAL EIDS: NATIONAL DAY, VICTORY DAY AND REPUBLIC DAY

*"And they planned and ALLAH
(also) planned, and ALLAH is the
best of planners"*

Sura Al- Imran Verse 54



 **1615**
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A WEEK OF THANKFULNESS TO ALLAH SWT FOR OUR INDEPENDENCE, UNITY AND DEMOCRACY



This fortnight marked three very important days of Maldivian history. The 9th of November was the Maldivian National Day. The 11th of November was the Maldivian Republic Day and the 3rd of November was the Maldivian Victory Day. The three days have a very high significance in the Maldivian history.

The national day signifies the day Muhammad Thakurufaanul Auzam liberated Maldives from the Portuguese rule. The Portuguese ruled Maldives for over 15 years which was the longest duration for which Maldives lost its independence out of the two times that we lost our sovereignty. He liberated Maldives on the 1st of Rabeel Awwal 981 A.H. (2nd July 1573)

The second day of significance that fell into this fortnight was our 50th Republic day. Maldives was ruled by kings and queens from time immemorial to the last century.

During the mid 20th century, the Maldivians decided to elect their ruler and changed the government from a monarchy to a presidency. However, the first presidency was short lived and reverted back to a monarchy. The second presidency started on the 11th of November 1968 and President Ibrahim Nasir was elected as the



president of the Maldives. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the second presidency of Maldives. The presidential system of government gave the masses a say in who and how they are going to be ruled. On 11th of November 2008, the first democratically elected president was sworn in, after the introduction of multi party democracy to Maldives. A democracy

and independent democratic institutions ensures the rights of the people through good governance. When the Human Rights of the people are ensured, it inevitably leads to less grievances and ultimately to lesser degrees of Violent Extremism and Terrorism.

The 3rd of November of 1988 saw the biggest terrorist incident in the Maldivian history. Tamil Terrorists belonging to PLOTE terrorist group with the help of a few Maldivians attacked the Army headquarters in the early hours of the morning of 3rd November 1988. Their efforts to capture the Headquarters were defeated and they fled after martyring 19 Maldivians, out of which 8 were soldiers and officers of security force. On the 3rd of November this year, we marked the

30th Anniversary of the victory that Allah SWT granted us over the terrorists.



UNDP'S CONSULTANT TO ASSES THE YOUTH VULNERABILITY MEETS THE CR COMMITTEE AND THE STAKEHOLDERS

06 November 2018



UNDP's consultant, Mr. Robert Templer met the Director General of NCTC and the Counter Radicalisation Committee of Maldives. He is in the Maldives to conduct a nationwide vulnerability assessment of Maldivian youth to Violent Extremism and to ascertain the factors/groups that are further exacerbating this vulnerability.

In his meeting he highlighted the importance of understanding the Youth Vulnerabilities before formulating any action plan to tackle the issue.

He further stressed the main "push" and "pull" factors for Radicalisation of Youth and the ways in which the relevant government institutions and

the Civil Sector Organisations could address those "push" and "pull" factors to minimize the youth vulnerability.

The consultant, Mr. Robert Templer is a PVE expert with more than 25 years of work experience in this field out of which 15 years were spent working on PVE in South Asia. In addition to the Counter Radicalisation Committee he also met prominent Religious NGOs and Religious Scholars to discuss the vulnerabilities of Maldivian Youth to Violent Extremism.

He will also meet other stakeholders of the government and active NGOs during his study. In the course of his study, he would conduct field visits to

selected atolls and islands to assess the vulnerabilities of the youth of island communities.

His work will aid in the formulation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism. The first draft of NAP on P/CVE is expected to be ready by the end of this year

Mr. Robert Templer is an Irishman. He is a researcher who has done extensive work on conflict, Violent Extremism, development, and program evaluation and management. And has worked on the ground in South Asia, Greater China and Vietnam.

DG GIVES AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO “CHANNEL NEWS ASIA” TV CHANNEL

16 November 2018

Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor gave an exclusive interview to the French journalist Philomene Remy of “Channel News Asia” and “France 24” which are prominent news and Television Channels of Europe and Asia.

The main topics of discussion were on the reason for the creation of a National body to Coordinate the Terrorism and Violent Extremism efforts of Maldives, its timing and the priorities set during the creation of NCTC.

The journalist also inquired about the exact number of Foreign Terrorist Fighters who have travelled to Syria to participate in the Syrian civil war and inquired about the discrepancies in the official figure and the figure reported in some of the media.

She further inquired about the profile of Maldivian FTFs and also about the reason for the spread of Radicalism in the Maldives.

She also expressed some concerns



over the threat to the Foreign tourists as well as inquired about the readiness of the Maldivian Forces to react to an incident if it were to occur in the Maldives. General Mansoor gave the assurance that the threat level is relatively low and Maldives is as ready as any other nation in countering those threats.

Another concern was raised due to the huge number of the islands and our ability to monitor all the islands by the security forces. DG assured her that it is not the security agencies alone who monitors the islands. The Maldivian community assists the Law Enforcement agencies in the monitoring process.

As with all other nations whose individuals have travelled to Syria to take part in the civil war, the next question was on the issue of the returning FTFs and their families and how well equipped Maldives is to address the issue.

The interview concluded with the inquiry of the achievements of NCTC and the way forward for the NCTC’s efforts in the Terrorism and Violent Extremism domain.



DG MEETS SOME PROMINENT SCHOLARS TO DISCUSS CHALLENGES FACED IN THE RELIGIOUS DOMAIN

14 November 2018

Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor met three prominent scholars and writers, namely the Deputy Minister of Islamic Affairs Sh. Ibrahim Ahmed, registrar of Maldives National University, Dr. Saudhullah Ali and the prominent journalist and writer, Mr. Mohamed Javaad Yoosuf to discuss on the challenges faced by the Maldivian Community, especially on the Religious front.

During the Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Islamic Affairs, DG



media to alleviate the doubts faced by the public on pressing and contentious religious issues. He also

conducted for grade ten and Higher Secondary grades on issues of grave concern for NCTC.



expressed his gratitude to Sh. Ibrahim Ahmed for the assistance rendered to NCTC in his official capacity as well as the assistance provided on a personal capacity. He also stressed the importance of continuing the work on his personal capacity in the future and requested Sh. Ibrahim Ahmed to assist as a Subject Matter Expert.

asked Dr. Saudhullah to assist us in future programs scheduled to be

During the meeting with Mr. Mohamed Javaad Yoosuf, DG expressed his gratitude to Mr. Mohamed Javaad Yoosuf for his sincere assistance in providing and understanding of the dynamics of the Islamic Ummah and the intricacies of the shifts and rifts of the Middle Eastern politics as well as the likely scenarios that would unfold in the Middle East and their likely impacts on the Maldivian society and the movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters into Syria and Iraq.

During the meeting with the registrar of MNU, DG requested the Registrar to write extensively on the news



NCTC MEETS THE TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS TRAVELLING TO SPAIN

15 November 2018



Lt. Col. Hussain Ibrahim, Head of Research and Publications of NCTC met the team of Police investigators travelling to Madrid, Spain for the workshop titled “The Use of Special Investigation Techniques in Criminal Investigation of Digital Communication Channels in Terrorist Cases” to be held from 19th -23rd November 2018.

This five day training workshop sponsored by UNODC aims to strengthen and develop the capacity of the Law Enforcement Personnel in the prevention of the use of Internet and the cyber domain for terrorist purposes. It also provides the Law Enforcement Officers the necessary tools and practical measures to detect, investigate and prosecute the terrorists.

The team of investigators will return to the Maldives with increased knowledge and skills and will get ample opportunities to share challenges, experiences and good practices with counterparts from other nations.

The five police officers who are attending the program are:

1. Sub inspector Uswath Ahmed
2. Sub Inspector Ahmed Azmath
3. St. Inspector Ali Naif Waheed
4. St. Inspector Mohamed Saman
5. St. Sergeant Ibrahim Husham

The team was briefed on the Maldivian efforts on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism

TEAM OF EXPERTS LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON TO TAKE PART IN STOCKTAKING MEETING

14 November 2018

A Maldivian team of experts leaves for Washington DC, USA to take part in the stock taking meeting for South and South East Asian Experts.

The stock taking meeting themed “Promoting effective networks and partnerships between criminal justice authorities, local communities and civil society organisations for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism leading to Terrorism (P/CVE)” is being co organized by UNODC and the State Department of USA.

The event is being held in Washington DC from the 15th to 16th of November 2018 and is funded by the Japanese government.

The meeting will bring together the Subject Matter Experts from the South Asia and South East Asia region and discuss on wide ranging topics identified as regional priorities during the UNODC meetings that were held in Tokyo on December of last year and in Kuala Lumpur in July of this year.

The Subject Matter Experts from Maldives who participated in this meeting are; Major Ibrahim Naem (NCTC), Dr. Shahuneeza Naseer, (IUM) and Uza. Fathimath Haleem (PGO).

The experts will be able to establish a P/CVE network to share knowledge and good practices, create a partnership of government, local community and Civil Service Organisations on P/CVE matters and effective counter-narrative strategies.